

Docket No. F-8120

Ser. No. 10/764,665

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please replace the claims with the claims provided in the listing below wherein status, amendments, additions and cancellations are indicated.

1. (Canceled).

2. (Currently Amended) A nut, comprising:

a nut body having an outer wall formed in a shape of a polygon and an inner wall defining a through hole including at least a portion thereof being defined by ~~an inclined~~ a wall hole having inclined inner surfaces, a diameter of the wall hole decreasing from a first diameter proximate a first end to a second diameter proximate a second end ~~proximate said second end that is less than said first diameter;~~

a stop extending radially inward into said through hole at said first end of the nut body, the stop defining a bolt exit aperture of said through hole;

at least two guides formed coaxially on said inner wall of the nut body at said inclined wall hole;

at least two nut segments having inclined outer surfaces and being movably disposed between the guides so as to permit sliding movement in an axial direction and radial displacement urged by sliding engagement of said inclined outer

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surfaces with ~~said inner wall at~~ said inclined inner surfaces of said wall hole, each of said at least two nut segments having an inner surface facing said axis of said through hole, said inner surface having a screw thread for engaging a thread of said bolt;

a spring disposed in the nut body between said stop and said at least two nut segments to bias said at least two nut segments toward said second end of said nut body;

said nut body including an attachment part provided axially adjacent said second end, ~~said attachment part including a fitting piece at a terminal end of the attachment part;~~ said attachment part having a substantially constant outer diameter allowing said attachment part to be freely insertable into a receiving hole of clearance diameter formed in an attachment member, a portion of said nut body adjacent said attachment part abutting said attachment member when said attachment part is inserted into said receiving hole; and

engagement means for fixing said ~~fitting piece~~ attachment part to said attachment member in a manner preventing mutual separation of said nut body and said attachment member after insertion of said attachment part into said receiving hole, said engagement means including a plurality of fitting pieces disposed at a terminal end of said attachment part.

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3. (Currently Amended) A nut according to claim 2, wherein:

said attachment part further includes a support axle provided at a small diameter portion of said nut body, said attachment part having a diameter smaller than an outside diameter of said nut body; and

~~the fitting piece is~~ pieces are formed at an outer circumferential portion of an end of said support axle.

4. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) A nut according to claim 2,

wherein:

said attachment part further includes a support piece formed in a shape of a flange at an outer circumferential portion of said nut body; and

~~the fitting piece is~~ pieces are formed at an outer circumferential portion of said nut body which serves as the attachment part.

5. (Currently Amended) A nut according to claim 2, wherein said engagement means include at least a portion of each of said fitting ~~piece~~ pieces which is structurally configured to permit an outward deformation thereof effected by application of pressure after insertion of said attachment part into said receiving hole such that a modified outside diameter of said attachment part at said at least the portion of each of said fitting ~~piece~~ pieces is attained which is larger than a

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minimum diameter of said receiving hole, whereby said nut body is captively maintained to said attachment member.

6. (Currently Amended) A fastener combination, comprising:

an attachment member including a receiving hole;

a nut body having an outer wall formed in a shape of a polygon and an inner wall defining a through hole including at least a portion thereof being defined by an inclined wall hole having inclined inner surfaces, a diameter of the wall hole decreasing from a first diameter proximate a first end to a second diameter proximate a second end proximate said second end that is less than said first diameter;

a stop extending radially inward into said through hole at said first end of the nut body, the stop defining a bolt exit aperture of said through hole;

at least two guides formed coaxially on said inner wall of the nut body at said inclined wall hole;

at least two nut segments having inclined outer surfaces and being movably disposed between the guides so as to permit sliding movement in an axial direction and radial displacement urged by sliding engagement of said inclined outer surfaces with said inner wall at said inclined inner surfaces of said wall hole, each of said at least two nut segments having an inner surface facing said axis of said

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through hole, said inner surface having a screw thread for engaging a thread of said bolt;

a spring disposed in the nut body between said stop and said at least two nut segments to bias said at least two nut segments toward said second end of said nut body;

said nut body including an attachment part provided axially adjacent said second end, said attachment part having a maximum outer diameter smaller than the receiving hole in the attachment member allowing said attachment part to be freely insertable into the receiving hole, a portion of said nut body adjacent said attachment part being configured to abut said attachment member when said attachment part is inserted into said receiving hole; and

engagement means for fixing said fitting attachment part to said attachment member in a manner preventing mutual separation of said nut body and said attachment member after insertion of said attachment part into said receiving hole, said engagement means including a plurality of fitting pieces disposed at a terminal end of said attachment part.

7. (Canceled).

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8. (Currently Amended) A fastener combination according to claim [[7]]
6, wherein said engagement means include at least a portion of each of said fitting
~~piece~~ pieces which is structurally configured to permit an outward deformation
thereof to be effected by application of pressure after insertion of said attachment
part into said receiving hole such that a modified outside diameter of said
attachment part at said at least the portion of each of said fitting ~~piece~~ pieces is
attained which is larger than a minimum diameter of said receiving hole, whereby
said nut body is captively maintained to said attachment member.

9. (Withdrawn) A fastener combination according to claim 6, wherein said
engagement means include threads formed on said attachment part and a
mounting member threadably engageable with said threads of said attachment
part, said mounting member being received to said nut body so as to abut an
opposite side of said attachment member to a side abutted by the portion of said
nut body adjacent said attachment part.

10. (Canceled).

11. (Currently Amended) A fastener combination, comprising:
an attachment member including a receiving hole;

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a nut including a nut body and means for internally engaging a thread of a bolt provided within said nut body;

said nut body including an attachment part provided axially adjacent an end of said nut body, said attachment part having a maximum outer diameter smaller than the receiving hole in the attachment member allowing said attachment part to be freely insertable into the receiving hole, a portion of said nut body adjacent said attachment part being configured to abut said attachment member when said attachment part is inserted into said receiving hole; and

engagement means for fixing said ~~fitting~~ attachment part to said attachment member in a manner preventing mutual separation of said nut and said attachment member after insertion of said attachment part into said receiving hole.

said engagement means including a plurality of fitting pieces disposed at a terminal end of said attachment part.

12. (Canceled).

13. (Currently Amended) The nut according to claim ~~[[12]]~~ 11, wherein said engagement means include at least a portion of at least one of said fitting piece pieces which is structurally configured to permit an outward deformation thereof to be effected by application of pressure after insertion of said attachment

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part into said receiving hole such that a modified outside diameter of said attachment part at said at least the portion of said at least one of said fitting pieces is attained which is larger than a minimum diameter of said receiving hole, whereby said nut body is captively maintained to said attachment member.

14. (Withdrawn) A fastener combination according to claim 11, wherein said engagement means include threads formed on said attachment part and a mounting member threadably engageable with said threads of said attachment part, said mounting member being received to said nut body so as to abut an opposite side of said attachment member to a side abutted by the portion of said nut body adjacent said attachment part.

15. (Canceled).

16. (New) The nut according to claim 2, wherein said fitting pieces comprise arcuate members disposed in circumferentially spaced apart positions of the attachment part.

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17. (New) The nut according to claim 16 wherein spaces between said arcuate members have a width smaller than an arcuate length of said arcuate members.

18. (New) The nut according to claim 16, wherein said fitting pieces comprise four arcuate members.

19. (New) The nut according to claim 18, wherein each of said arcuate members forms an arc of approximately 90 degrees.

20. (New) The fastener combination according to claim 6, wherein said fitting pieces comprise arcuate members disposed in circumferentially spaced apart positions of the attachment part.

21. (New) The fastener combination according to claim 20 wherein spaces between said arcuate members have a width smaller than an arcuate length of said arcuate members.

22. (New) The fastener combination according to claim 20, wherein said fitting pieces comprise four arcuate members.

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23. (New) The fastener combination according to claim 22, wherein each of said arcuate segments forms an arc of approximately 90 degrees.

24. (New) The fastener combination according to claim 6, wherein said fitting pieces comprise arcuate members disposed in circumferentially spaced apart positions of the attachment part.

25. (New) The fastener combination according to claim 24 wherein spaces between said arcuate members have a width smaller than an arcuate length of said arcuate members.

26. (New) The fastener combination according to claim 24, wherein said fitting pieces comprise four arcuate members.

27. (New) The fastener combination according to claim 26, wherein each of said arcuate members forms an arc of approximately 90 degrees.